GREENBELT
News Review
An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories

St. Hugh's school building, p.7

Festival Art & Photo Shows, p.12

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Former Mayor Gil Weidenfeld Remembered for Years of Service

by Charlotte Ormond

This is Part 1 of a two-part series remembering Former Mayor of Greenbelt Gil Weidenfeld. This first article focuses on an interview with his daughter.

When Sharon Weidenfeld Robinson thinks of her father, she remembers the day he stood before a heckling crowd in the Greenbelt City Council chambers, reading from the Supreme Court's landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision as residents booed and walked out. In 1972, while many in the audience urged city leaders to oppose a federal school desegregation order, Gil Weidenfeld argued Greenbelt should follow the law. Despite the opposition, he continued reading, and by the end of the meeting, the council voted not to oppose the desegregation order (See the December 21, 1972 and January 11, 1973 issues for the council's discussions of busing in Prince George's County to achieve racial balance in schools).

"I was a little kid, and I was like really impressed," said Robinson, who was in the crowd that day. "I think that really stuck in my head to see him stand up for civil rights in that way, and to be able to withstand the booing."

Weidenfeld, who spent 22 years on the Greenbelt City Council, including 14 years as mayor, died on July 4, 2026, at the age of 93. He is remembered for the courage he displayed in the council room in 1972, as well as the years of service and dedication he devoted to the City of Greenbelt.

Weidenfeld, a first-generation American, was born in

See **WEIDENFELD**, page 4

PHOTO BY J. HENSON

Gil Weidenfeld holds the 50th anniversary book on Greenbelt in February 1994. He made a large contribution to the last chapters of the book.

Beloved Greenbelt Middle Principal Resigns, Search Process Underway

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Greenbelt Middle School's (GMS) beloved principal, Marcellus Clement, announced on Friday, July 10 that he will leave the school after leading it for five years. Clement said he had been given an "expanded opportunity" as a leader within Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS).

New PGCPS Role

"As committed educators, we often must extend our service to all those who build our learning communities, not just those within a single school. Thus, it is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that I will no longer serve as Principal of Greenbelt Middle School," wrote Clement in his letter to the community on July 10. "I have been given an expanded opportunity to continue in my role as an educational leader within Prince George's County Public Schools. On this new journey, I will carry memories of all the lives and rich experiences that have made me so proud to serve the children and communities of this county."

At an emergency Zoom meeting on Monday, July 13, Clement explained he has received a promotion and will be mentoring and coaching other principals in a new role, Jessica O'Roark, a Greenbelt parent who attended the meeting, told the News Review.

Principal Search

Current Assistant Principal Camille Butler is serving in the interim role while a search for a new principal is conducted, parents were told at the July 13 meeting. PGCPS' Human Resources has already begun the process to fill the position, said a letter from Instructional Director for District 2 Danielle Moore.

See **PRINCIPAL**, page 6

Bd. of Ed. Rep. Briggs' Resignation Announced after Applications Closed

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Jonathan Briggs, who represented District 2, which includes Greenbelt, on the Prince George's County Board of Education, has resigned, effective June 26 or June 30*. Almost three weeks later, his constituents and the media had not been notified by Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), though his resignation was announced by Board Chair Branndon Jackson during a July 9 meeting. The announcement at that meeting came two days after the county closed the application window for the vacated seat. Following questions from the News Review to the PGCPS Office of Communications and the Board of Education Office on the morning of July 20, communication about Briggs' resignation was finally shared by PGCPS that afternoon. Briggs had also been serving as the vice chair of the Board of Education at the time of his resignation.

The District 2 school board member represents the north-central portion of Prince George's County, including Greenbelt, College Park, Berwyn Heights, Riverdale Park and New Carrollton. Briggs assumed his four-year position on December 5, 2022. His term was set to end on December 7, 2026.

July 9 Announcement

According to Board of Education Chair Branndon Jackson at a July 9 virtual special meeting, Briggs formally submitted his resignation on June 30, effective immediately, which the board accepted. Jackson acknowledged

PHOTO COURTESY JONATHAN BRIGGS

Jonathan Briggs

Briggs' service and commitment to the school community and announced that the county executive will appoint someone to serve the remainder of his term through December 7. The election in November will determine who will assume the seat for the following term. Jackson made no mention of the reason for Briggs' sudden

See **BRIGGS**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, July 27
No City Council Meeting, Summer Recess
Wednesday, July 29
No Council Meeting, Summer Recess

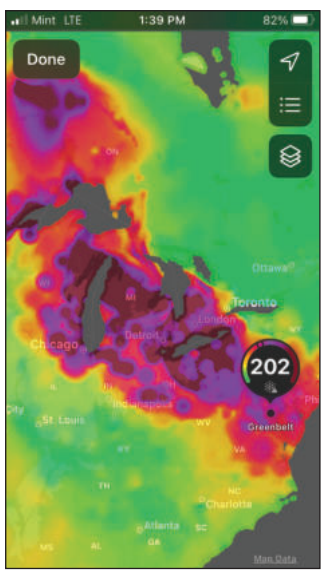
See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

Council Votes on Collective Bargaining, Armory Options

by Hannah Frasure

On July 13, the Greenbelt City Council voted unanimously to extend collective bargaining rights to a wide array of the city's employees, closing out months of discussion that began when a group of Public Works employees petitioned council in September 2025.

Council also discussed a grant proposal to fund services that would evaluate the three alternatives for the armory: all three options would raze all the buildings except the garages.



SCREENSHOT BY MARK SHERMAN

A weather app showed the plume of smoke from wildfires spreading across Canada and the United States, with Greenbelt's air quality hovering at the red to purple level, between "unhealthy" and "very unhealthy" on Friday, July 17.

PHOTO COURTESY TRENT LEON-LIERMAN

City of Greenbelt employees Michael Canavan, Robbie Tripe, Luisa Robles, Brian Allen and Nate Rozier with labor organizer and Greenbelt resident Trent Leon-Lierman pictured on July 20 when the city council codified collective bargaining for all regular part-time, full-time, non-confidential and non-managerial employees of the city.

Discussion of a zoning request by St. Jerome Institute to operate out of the former St. Hugh's School building is reported separately in a story on p. 7.

Amending Labor Code

In approving collective bargaining rights, "[the council was] intentional ... [in] making sure this amendment will apply to as many employees in the city as it can," said Councilmember Jenni Pompi, before the council vote; applause followed the vote.

Councilmember Frankie Fritz thanked Pompi for taking leadership on this legislation, and Greenbelt's Public Works employees for initiating the reform. "Thank you to the workers," said Fritz, "for actually stepping up and saying that you want to be stakeholders with a voice in this city. That you care enough about this job to stand up and say we deserve our rights and see these rights formalized."

Note of Dissent

Fritz voted yes after stating that he nonetheless disagreed with the part of the legislation that bans strikes, saying, "The best way to prevent a strike is to bargain in good faith with your workforce."

Resident Views

At the meeting, Greenbelt resident Michael Canavan — one of

See **BARGAINING**, page 6

Letters to the Editor

History Worth Saving

Months ago, 60 of our neighbors petitioned the council to explore the creation of a National New Deal Heritage Center for the existing Armory building.

Late Monday with no discussion council voted to solicit grants to demolish the building. No plans as to what would replace the Armory. Three unimaginative worksession suggestions came up with some sort of "mixed use" structure.

Demolition was even seriously considered for what's now the Community Center, then the "obsolete" Center School. Thank goodness cooler heads prevailed.

Above all we want to spread the word about the great and enduring progress that Democrat Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal accomplished for this country. Too many to list, but they improved American lives in so many cities and towns I doubt anywhere in the U.S. went untouched.

FDR solved the biggest environmental disaster of the 20th century, the Dust Bowl. Built 26,000 bridges. Fostered arts and humanities. Social Security. A hundred towns like Greenbelt designed to improve the lives of those less fortunate than the rich who labelled him a "traitor to his class." He said he wasn't concerned about those who had plenty but with those who didn't have enough. His words were proven true by his actions.

We need to promote the vision of good government to our nation. There is no better town than ours to espouse this. There is no more necessary time than now.

Here in the bluest city in the bluest state we cannot sit back smugly proud of our good representatives and senators. We need to do whatever we can to restore our country and promote real progress for us lower classes.

Frank Gervasi

Thanks from FoGL

A big thank you to all who support our local Library.

As treasurer for the Friends of Greenbelt Library (FoGL) and on behalf of our hard-working volunteers, I just wanted to thank everyone for supporting Novel Endings, our bookstore inside the Library behind the children's

See **LETTERS**, page 8

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Odyssey

From director Christopher Nolan comes the story of Odysseus, king of Ithaca, who embarks on a perilous journey to return home after the Trojan War. Starring Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway, Robert Pattinson and Lupita Nyong'o.

The Invite

Joe's (Seth Rogen) and Angela's (Olivia Wilde) marriage is on thin ice. When they invite their enigmatic upstairs neighbors (Penélope Cruz and Edward Norton) for a dinner party, the night spirals into unexpected places. Have they reignited the spark or lit the match that burns it all down?

Little Miss Sunshine

The Hoover family – a man (Greg Kinnear), his wife (Toni Collette), an uncle (Steve Carell), a brother (Paul Dano) and a grandfather (Alan Arkin) – puts the fun back in dysfunctional by piling into a VW bus and heading to California to support a daughter (Abigail Breslin) in her bid to win the Little Miss Sunshine Contest. The sanity of everyone involved is stretched to the limit as the group's quirks cause epic problems as they travel along their interstate route.

Out of Print

Filmmaker Julia Marchese explores the importance of revival cinema and 35mm exhibitions at places like the New Beverly Cinema.

Sorry to Bother You

In an alternate reality of present-day Oakland, Calif., telemarketer Cassius Green (LaKeith Stanfield) finds himself in a macabre universe after he discovers a magical key that leads to material glory. As Green's career begins to take off, his friends and co-workers organize a protest against corporate oppression. Cassius soon falls under the spell of Steve Lift, a cocaine-snorting CEO who offers him a salary beyond his wildest dreams.

The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie

In this lively animated adventure, undersea oddball SpongeBob SquarePants and his starfish friend, Patrick, embark on a quest to clear the name of Mr. Krabs, the owner of the Krusty Krab restaurant, who has been framed for stealing the crown of ocean deity King Neptune. Leaving the familiar confines of Bikini Bottom, SpongeBob and Patrick venture out toward Shell City, where they hope to find Neptune's crown, but numerous obstacles stand (or float) in their way.

Spider-Man: Brand New Day

It's a brand new day for Peter Parker. Fighting crime full-time as Spider-Man in a world that doesn't remember him – and the pressure of seeing his old friends move on without him – sparks a change in Peter he may not have the power to control. But that transformation might also be the only thing that can stop a shocking new threat to the city and those he loves – a powerful villain no one can even see. The world may have forgotten Peter Parker, but he hasn't forgotten it.

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members always $7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!

After 5 PM: adults $10, kids $7, senior/student/military $9

Before 5 PM:
general admission $8, kids $6

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JULY 24th - 30th

The Odyssey (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (172 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 4:00 PM
Sat. 3:35 PM, 7:25 PM
Sun. 4:00 PM (OC)
Mon. 5:00 PM
Tues. 3:00 PM, Wed. 6:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:25 PM,
Sun. 12:30 PM
Mon. 1:45 PM, Thurs. 4:00 PM

The Invite (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2026) (107 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 7:45 PM
Sun. 7:45 PM
Mon. 2:10 PM (OC)
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 4:25 PM
Sat. 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM
Sun. 4:20 PM, Mon. 5:30 PM
Tues. 6:30 PM
Wed. 6:30 PM, Thurs. 7:45 PM

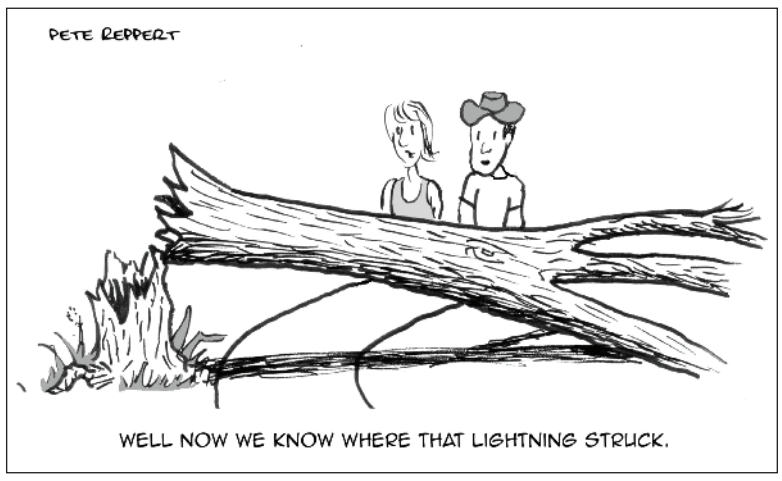
Little Miss Sunshine (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2006) (101 mins)
Cult Classic
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 1:00 PM

Out of Print
(NR) (2014) (86 mins)
in Honor of ArtHouse Theater Day
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Tues. 7:00 PM

Sorry to Bother You (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2018) (105 mins)
In Honor of ArtHouse Theater Day
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 8:00 PM

The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (PG)
(CC) (DVS) (2004) (105 mins)
School's Out! - FREE!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 1:00 PM

Spider-Man: Brand New Day
(PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2026) (145 mins)
Early Members-only Screening
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 4:30 PM



Story & Photograph Submissions

We welcome your stories and photographs about all things Greenbelt. While publication is not guaranteed, your submissions help us cover more of what goes on. Stories will be copyedited. Remember to include captions and identify people in photographs. See the information box on this page for publication deadlines and how to submit materials.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Greenbelt News Review

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15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
Phone: 301-474-4131
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)
ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985
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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: $55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Build with Legos

Monday, July 27, 4 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Build, create and explore with Legos. With plenty of pieces and endless possibilities, kids can let their imaginations take the lead in this freestyle building session. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16523075.

Storytimes

Tuesday, July 28, 12:15 p.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16645484.

Wednesday, July 29, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/16486793.

Thursday, July 30, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2, Register at pgcmls.info/event/16486828.

Astronomical Society Meets Next Thursday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will meet Thursday, July 30 at 7 p.m. in Room 114 of the Community Center. They will view the popular Australian movie The Dish, about the role of Parkes Radio Telescope in the Apollo 11 moon landing.

This film showing is free and open to the public. All are welcome. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Update: Operating Hours For the New Deal Café

The New Deal Café Board and the music coordinator are working with performers and volunteers to finalize the café's schedule for the next few weeks.

The goal is to preserve as many performance events as possible, but that decision will need to incorporate the input of performers, the music coordinator, the pace of restoring food and beverage service and the ability of the board and volunteers to support the events. In addition, the café must ensure compliance with any applicable regulations.

Below is the latest estimate for the near term.

July 23 – Normal operating hours

July 24 – Open at 5 p.m. for Happy Hour and Strange Souls performance

July 25 to August 7 – Open for select performances and events

Follow the New Deal Café on social media for last-minute updates.

Bibliophiles Meet August 12

The Bibliophiles of Greenbelt will meet at The New Deal Café on Wednesday, August 12 from 11 a.m. to noon. They meet on the second Wednesday of every month. The topic for this meeting will be The USA@250. This month the group will read and discuss The Living Declaration by Ted Widmer. Depending on the consensus of the group, they may continue the theme of The Birth of the U.S. in future meetings. Those unable to get a copy of Widmer's book can read one of many books and articles on the same topic. Choose one, then come and enrich the conversation. For more information, email Van Caldwell at wvcaldwell@gmail.com.

Creative Kids, Circus Camp Shows Friday

Greenbelt Recreation's Creative Kids Camp (CKC) and Circus Camp invite community members to attend free, family-friendly performances on Friday, July 24.

At 10 a.m. and 2:15 p.m., come enjoy CKC's production of Hercules and Hippolyta, an original musical written and directed by Chris Cherry, Greenbelt Recreation's performing arts coordinator. Join history's first superheroes on a musical adventure. Working together, they rescue the noble Titan Prometheus, defeat the bullying Big Bad Boar and capture the Golden Hind, a magical deer who can grant any wish. How Hercules and Hippolyta use their wish is the final test of whether they are heroes.

At 1 p.m. see the Circus Camp's production of Under the Big Top. Under the direction of mentors Sam Collins and Julia May, circus campers will present a showcase of their skills, including juggling, stilt walking, unicycle, tightrope, tumbling, clown gags and more.

All performances will take place in the Community Center gym. For free tickets, visit the Community Center business office or call 301-397-2208.

For more information about Greenbelt Recreation arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Make Sock Monkeys At Artful Afternoons

PHOTO BY GREENBELT RECREATION ARTS

A prior Artful Afternoon session's attendee with completed sock monkey

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites guests to a series of free Artful Afternoon workshops where participants can make their own unique sock monkey. All materials are provided, but guests are welcome to bring their own socks, buttons and other decorations. The activity will be offered on Sunday, August 2 from 1 to 2 p.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center and on Sunday, August 9 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

This activity is recommended for adults and for family members working collaboratively. Guests who have the ability to use scissors and to sew with an oversized, blunt craft needle will be doing most of the work. Projects may not all be completed during the workshop times listed above, but guests will be equipped to finish at home as needed.

Seating is limited and advance sign-up is recommended. Sign up at sugeni.us/eyWh. Walk-ins will be welcome as space and supplies permit. For more information about Greenbelt Arts programs, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Chess Club Meetings

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, July 28 at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:50 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to their mailing list, visit tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center.

The final meeting this month is July 29. There will be a sing-along with guitarists Barbara and Mike.

Favor's Table Hosts Giveaway on July 25

On Saturday, July 25, Favor's Table will be giving away food as well as new and/or gently used shoes, clothes, diapers, bras, underwear, socks, cosmetics, sanitary pads and household items starting at 5 p.m.

Children must be present to receive shoes. To receive diapers, bring baby's birth certificate and health insurance card. Bringing bags will be appreciated. First come, first served. No ID required.

The location is the rear parking lot behind Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church.

For additional food assistance resources, go to pgcfec.org/resources/find-food-food-pantry-listings or auntbertha.com/widget/660x234?c=2F8BC5&d=connectva, enter 20770 in the search box and choose from the categories in the navigation box at the top of the page.

Used Books Sought For PTA's Book Sale

The Greenbelt Elementary School PTA will be collecting used books to sell at the annual Labor Day Festival used book sale.

The PTA will accept book and media donations in Old Greenbelt on Saturdays, August 15 and 29 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., specific location to be announced in August. All books will be accepted (except manuals, encyclopedias and dictionaries), as well as CDs, DVDs, records, puzzles and games. For more information, email booksalegespta@gmail.com or visit sites.google.com/view/gespta/events/labor-day-book-sale.

Friends of Patuxent Environmental Fair

On Saturday, July 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Friends of Patuxent will host their inaugural Local Community Environmental Fair at the Patuxent Research Refuge. Free for the whole family, the fair is packed with activities, taxidermy dioramas, learning opportunities and entertainment. Here is a sneak peek at what they have planned.

Connect with local experts: Meet representatives from over 20 local environmental and conservation organizations to learn how to make a difference in the community.

Special Film Presentation: Enjoy a screening of Doug Tallamy's film, The Extraordinary Caterpillar.

Art & Discussion: The fair is being held in conjunction with a fantastic photography exhibit, featuring a special talk by Keith Kozloff about his work, inspired by the legacy of Rachel Carson.

Live Music & More: Enjoy live acoustic music while exploring the fair and connecting with neighbors.

Learn more about local wildlife conservation, discover native gardening tips, go for a hike or just enjoy a summer day with the family at Cash Lake and the Patuxent Research Refuge grounds. There is something here for everyone. The Visitor Center is located at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop.

See Cheri Glover's Art In Center Art Gallery

Visit the current exhibition at the Community Center Art Gallery, where Cheri Glover's vivid and joyful artwork is inspired by "nature, dreams and the beauty of being human." The gallery is open daily: Monday through Friday evenings from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The show is on view through August 9.

GATE GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION
Community-Driven Storytelling

Featured Programming on Greenbelt Access Television
July 2026
Verizon FiOS Channel 19 · Comcast Channel 77 · Streaming Online at GreenbeltAccessTV.org

Featured Productions

New, daily episodes of Democracy Now

Coverage of local events, performances and productions

All-new creations from Mister Geo's Homeschool Digital Animation Class

All this and more on our cable channels, online streaming, and YouTube channel. As always, thank you for tuning in!

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt! Try Our New Menu & Drinks!

BECOME A MEMBER!*

NEW DEAL CAFÉ Greenbelt, MD

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight; Sunday, 9am – 9pm

REMEMBER TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS - IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY'RE PAID!
* * * RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642 * * *

TH 7/23	FRI 7/24	SAT 7/25	SUN 7/26
Still Cookin' 7 - 9pm Hot Blues, Cool Rock and a little bit of soul	Strange Souls - The Doors Reimagined 8 - 11pm Breathes new life into one of rock's most influential bands	NDC JAZZ JAM, 2 - 5pm Still Standing w/ Big Boy Little & Linwood Taylor 8 - 11pm Hot rockin' blues & roots. It'll be a funky good time!	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30am- 12p The Nighthawks 6 - 8pm This legendary DC band graces the NDC stage for a night to remember

MON 7/27	TUES 7/28	WED 7/29	TH 7/30	New Deal Cafe
LIVE BAND KARAOKE 7 - 9:30pm Come on over and show us what you got!	NDC Open Mic w/ Carla Monardes 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm; Open Mic starts at 6:30p	The Threetles 7 - 9pm Beatle tribute band with dance finger picking and the songs you know	NAME THAT TUNE! 7 - 9pm Hosted by PG Library. Compete for prizes!	RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NDC! See link below*

*Join NDC! Go to NewDeal Cafe(dot) com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Obituaries

Gil Weidenfeld

PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Gil Weidenfeld

Gil Weidenfeld, 93, was at home in Annapolis when he died peacefully on July 4, 2026, with family by his side. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 71 years, Muriel "Micki" Weidenfeld. He is survived by his daughter, Sharon Weidenfeld Robinson; her husband, Garnett; daughter, Ellen Vesey; her former husband, Mike; her son, Justin (Yeimi), and her daughters Jordan and Jillian.

Gil was born in the Bronx to parents Saul and Fannie and was a first generation American. Soon the family moved to a chicken farm in New Jersey. It was there Gil's family met the farm family across the street and they all became friends. That's how Gil met his neighbor Micki who he married in 1953. The family continued to live in New Jersey and Gil became an oil burner mechanic. He then attended college and Micki got a job to help support them. Gil attended Monmouth College and then graduated from Rutgers University with a mechanical engineering degree. Their daughters Sharon and Ellen were born. The family moved to Greenbelt in 1965. Gil began work at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He also attended law school at Catholic University in Washington where he received his law degree. Gil spent his professional career first as a patent examiner, then a supervisory examiner and then as the public information officer for the office. When Gerald Ford was president, he established the Presidential Clemency Board to consider clemency for people with draft-related offenses during the Vietnam War. Gil was selected to work on this program, assisting those who were applying for clemency and making recommendations to the Board. While living in Greenbelt, Gil and Micki became involved in many civic activities and Gil's love for the community inspired him to run for city council. He spent 22 years on the council, most of that time serving as mayor which was one of his proudest accomplishments in life. He was able to do many things for the city and the residents, including being instrumental in having Green Ridge House and Springhill Lake Recreation Center built as well as a new police station and the Aquatics & Fitness Center. As mayor, Gil made sure he was approachable by any resident, employee or visitor to Greenbelt who needed his help and he would patiently listen and do whatever he could to assist them. He treated everyone as his equal and with great compassion and understanding. He is a past president of the Prince George's Municipal League, a Hall of Fame Inductee for his tireless efforts with the Maryland Municipal League and a past chairman of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Besides their dedication to their community, Gil and Micki were also dedicated to their family. They regularly took Sharon and Ellen to visit their grandparents and extended family in New Jersey, especially to enjoy holidays such as Passover and Thanksgiving and to spend time at the beach. They also went on many fun family vacations to Florida, Jekyll Island, Jamaica and Ocean City, Md. Gil eventually retired from the federal government and worked for the State of Maryland Department of Transportation where he developed the first telework program for Maryland. It was a new concept that was initiated in the 1990s to help reduce traffic and pollution. Gil was a devoted father to his daughter Sharon. He was always interested in hearing stories from her career as a private investigator and he shared those stories with his friends and extended family. He was a huge supporter to Sharon especially when she worked on civil rights investigations involving police misconduct. Gil had always been a firm believer and taught his children that everyone was entitled to and should enjoy the same civil rights.

Gil was also a devoted father to his daughter Ellen. When Ellen moved to Pennsylvania and started a family of her own, Gil and Micki would travel there often to spend time with their grandchildren, often going to their sporting events, hosting them in Ocean City and on a cruise. He also kept up with Ellen's career as a realtor and when the grandchildren got older he was interested in hearing about college and their new careers.

In retirement Gil and Micki traveled, visiting relatives whenever possible. One of their favorite places to spend time was in Mexico, relaxing on the beach and enjoying good meals. After Micki convinced Gil to go on a cruise, he became hooked and they went on many cruises. In 2005, they started a new adventure. They left their longtime home of Greenbelt and moved to a sunny condo in Heritage Harbour in Annapolis. Sharon had moved from Greenbelt to Annapolis the previous year and now they were all close together again. They continued to travel, go out to dinner with friends, enjoy local concerts and plays and spend time with their children and grandchildren. In 2021, Gil and Micki moved to an assisted living facility in Annapolis. Gil made new friends with residents and staff alike and was active in the exercise classes.

While there, their grandson Justin brought his girlfriend Yeimi to meet them. They welcomed her as a new granddaughter and were delighted when the couple married in 2024. They waited with anticipation for Sharon's fiancé to immigrate from Jamaica. Gil and Micki met him in person in 2023 and attended their wedding in 2024. After Micki died in 2024, Gil was alone for the first time in his life. Sharon and son-in-law Garnett were there most days to spend time with him.

Mishkan Torah Celebrates High Holidays Services

Mishkan Torah will celebrate the following holidays in September.

- Rosh Hashanah on September 11 through 13.
- Yom Kippur on September 20 and 21.

Mishkan Torah is located at 10 Ridge Road and can be reached at mishkantorah.org.

WEIDENFELD continued from page 1

the Bronx, N.Y., in 1932, before moving to a chicken farm in New Jersey at a young age, where he later met his future wife, Muriel "Micki". After marrying and having two daughters, Sharon and Ellen, they moved to Greenbelt in 1965. Robinson recalled a "normal family life in Greenbelt," frequent trips to New Jersey and her father's generous and caring nature. Weidenfeld was married to his wife for 71 years, until her death in 2024.

"He was friendly to everybody," Robinson said. "He wanted to hear what was going on in people's lives, and just tried to make everybody comfortable around him. He was the type of person that if we had more people like him in this world it would be a lot friendlier of a place."

When speaking to the News Review, his daughter recalled stories that truly encapsulated her father's spirit. She remembered him leaving his family just before the Fourth of July fireworks to help a lost child find his parents and volunteering to escort a Miss Greenbelt contestant who did not have a partner for an event.

Robinson said her father's kindness and compassion were reflected in his years of public service. During his time on the Greenbelt City Council, Weidenfeld helped bring Green Ridge House — a city-owned apartment community that provides housing and support services for residents 62 and older — to fruition. He also played a key role in establishing the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center.

"Those are two of the things that really meant a lot to him, and I think that they're really good things that the city has," Robinson said.

Beyond Greenbelt, Weidenfeld was also a past president of the Prince George's Municipal League, a Hall of Fame Inductee for his efforts with the Maryland Municipal League and a past chairman of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Robinson emphasized her father's selflessness when it came to public service.

"He wasn't in it for personal

See **WEIDENFELD**, page 5

Vision for America
Latent Social Power
A Common Endeavor
Scan with cellphone camera to play on YouTube
Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
cathcomgreenbelt.org
ALL ARE WELCOME!
A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Core Values from Romans chapter 8.

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Yael Fischman
A welcoming, inclusive, and friendly synagogue offers something for everyone: young, old, single, married, and both Jewish and interfaith families.
Services at 8:00pm Friday and 9:45am Saturday in person and on Zoom
For more information, visit MishkanTorah.org or call 301-474-4223
A Dual-Affiliated Reconstructionist and Conservative congregation
10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
We Are an Open and Affirming Church
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM for Worship
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org
Rev. Aubra Love, Senior Pastor

JOIN **MISHKAN TORAH**
FOR THE
HIGH HOLIDAYS
5787/2026
Warm, welcoming, inclusive, and familial
Learn more and register by scanning the QR code or visiting MishkanTorah.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am,11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.
*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.
CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

WEIDENFELD continued from page 4

gain ... He genuinely loved the city of Greenbelt and the people in Greenbelt," she said.

Weidenfeld had not planned on being involved in local politics. However, after moving to the Springhill Lake apartment community, he wanted to ensure that everybody in his neighborhood was properly represented, according to his daughter. In a News Review interview in 1994, he indicated that he ran for the city council in 1971 because he wanted a community center for Springhill Lake.

"He probably had a more liberal outlook on things than some of the other people on the city council at the time. He felt that he could bring some of his knowledge [from] his experiences in life and his ideas of how things should operate to the city," Robinson said.

As the mayor of Greenbelt, Weidenfeld treated his constituents with respect and an open mind, according to his daughter. She said he prioritized listening to residents' concerns, and said her father believed effective public service meant seeking to understand differing viewpoints, even when he disagreed.

Weidenfeld died at his home in Annapolis, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his daughter Sharon and her husband Garnett; his daughter Ellen Vesey, her former husband, Mike, her son Justin (Yeimi) and her daughters, Jordan and Jillian.

Charlotte Ormond is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.

Deer on Plateau Place

PHOTO BY DAVID LOCKWOOD

City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

MEETINGS FOR JULY 27 - JULY 31

Monday, July 27, **NO MEETING - COUNCIL SUMMER RECESS**

Tuesday, July 28 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION - *Virtual,*** *On the Agenda: TBD*

Tuesday, July 28 at 7:30 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (GREEN ACES) - *Virtual,*** *On the Agenda: TBD*

Wednesday, July 29, **NO MEETING - COUNCIL SUMMER RECESS**

Thursday, July 30, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD - *Public Works Building,*** *On the Agenda: Stream Naming, Pumpkin Walk, Outreach: Labor Day Tabling, Trail Information, and the Science Fund*

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

OFFICIAL NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND
CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NO. 2134
LANHAM BOYS CLUB

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, a municipal corporation, has initiated legislative action to annex into the corporate limits of the City of Greenbelt lands contiguous and adjoining to the city's existing corporate boundaries, as described below:

A Charter Amendment Resolution of the City Council of Greenbelt Enlarging the Corporate Boundaries of the City of Greenbelt By Annexing Into The Corporate Limits of the City of Greenbelt Lands Contiguous and Adjoining to the City's Existing Corporate Boundaries Property Commonly Known As Lanham Boys Club, Consisting Of Approximately 10 +/- Acres of Land In Total Located Generally at the Lanham Boys Club.

The annexation resolution was initiated by the City Council pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, Local Government Article, § 4-403.

The exact legal description and annexation plan for the above Annexation Area are available online at www.greenbeltmd.gov/news, or may be reviewed in person at the City of Greenbelt Department of Planning and Community Development, 15 Crescent Road, Suite 200, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed annexation on September 14, 2026, at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing.

Written comments may be presented at the public hearing or submitted in advance to the City Clerk, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM, & PAINT RECYCLING

Saturday, July 25 from 9 am to 12 pm
Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent

Electronics Recycling - Accepted: CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires, power cords. NO - ALKALINE BATTERIES or CFLs; NO - TUBE TVs.

Expanded Polystyrene - White, block Styrofoam #6. NEW: egg cartons and food trays!

PAINT RECYCLING! —$5 per container. DO NOT mix paint in other containers. If you are unable to attend the event, you may hire this service directly to come to your home for an additional $100 service fee. Contact: Yuck Old Paint, LLC 888-509-9825 (YUCK) or www.YuckOldPaint.com. Contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004 with any questions or concerns.

Contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004.

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

* VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES * APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Appeals, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Advisory Committee Advancing Public Safety, or Youth Advisory Committee and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

GREENBELT CARES PROGRAMS

STRONGER MEMORY CLASSES
Tuesdays, July 7 through August 11, 1 - 2:30 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

Participants will learn practical strategies to strengthen memory, stay mentally active, and connect with others in the community.

FREE - Registration is required. Final call for registration is June 15. To register, contact Cesar Herrera at 202-891-8071.

BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR
Tuesday, August 18, 10 am - 1 pm
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Meet organizations devoted to strengthening community connections - providing resources about health insurance, mental health services, and city educational programming. Free full health screenings (blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, A1C), vision + hearing screenings, dental screenings, fun activities and more!

GREENBELT STORYWALK COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SURVEY

In Collaboration with the Prince George's County Library System and the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE), the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) is gathering community feedback to help inform a recommendation to City Council about the future of the StoryWalk. Your responses are anonymous and will help us understand how the community values this resource.

https://forms.office.com/r/mLfbDhbkPA

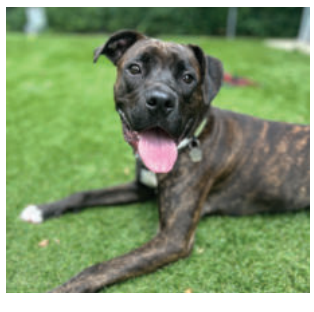
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 4
Beltway Plaza Mall, 6000 Greenbelt Road (Rear Parking Lot)
Lakeside North, 430 Ridge Road
Windsor Green, 7474 Frankfort Drive

Join the Greenbelt Police Department and Greenbelt Neighborhoods for the 2025 National Night Out. National Night Out is a cohesive effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie, and to send a message that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against crime.

FEATURED PETS

BLU



Ready for Adoption?

Call (301) 474-6124

11-month-old Blu was surrendered to the shelter back in March when his owner could no longer care for him. When he's not smothering you in affection, Blu loves to play with toys, go on walks, and learn new tricks. No puppy should have to grow up in the shelter – let's find Blu a home before his 1st birthday!

If you're interested in adopting bright-eyed Blu, please email animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov or call 301-474-6124 for more information.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx

Creative Kids Camp Performs Hercules and Hippolyta 7/24; 10am & 2:15pm (Greenbelt Community Center) A musical adventure about history's first super-heroes! Written and directed by Chris Cherry, Greenbelt Recreations' performing arts coordinator. Ticket information below. Additional performances on 8/7.

Circus Camp Presents Under the Big Top 7/24; 1pm (Greenbelt Community Center) Campers present a showcase of their circus skills, including juggling, stilt walking, unicycle, tightrope, tumbling, clown gags, and more! Ticket information below. Additional performances on 8/7 and 8/14.

Both camp shows are FREE, but tickets are required. Visit the Greenbelt Community Center business office or call (301) 397-2208. Seating is limited.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **August Artful Afternoons** 8/2; 1-3pm (Greenbelt Community Center) and 8/9; 1:30-2:30pm (Springhill Lake Recreation Center), sign up at sugeni.us/eyWh. Make your own unique sock monkey!

Registration required for these activities, see www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide for details

- **Youth Pottery on the Wheel** M-F, 7/27 - 8/7; 3:45-5:45pm (pg 17)
- **Make & Take Ceramics: Magical Miniatures** 8/9 - 8/16; 1-2:30pm (pg 23)

GREENBELT WELCOME KITS!

Material Drop-Off

We're looking for materials to add to the City's Welcome Kits for new residents and visitors. Please dropoff at the Municipal Building to

James Wisniewski
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

NO LATER THAN 4 PM ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Follow the City of Greenbelt on Facebook and Twitter @cityofgreenbelt! For City information and events, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

PRINCIPAL continued from page 1

A presentation reviewed by the News Review said the interview panel would include a human resources representative, area associate superintendent, school instructional director, four educators (including representation from the school's faculty advisory committee), two support staff, two Parent, Teacher, Student Association (PTSA) members and two community members. The presentation, which is linked from the school's website asserts the goal is to fill the principal vacancy before the board meeting in June, a date already past. Parents who attended were not given a specific date but told the process was being expedited, said O'Roark.

Though the search is open to all candidates, "it was noted ... it seems most likely that it will be an internal candidate, given the expedited nature of the search," said O'Roark.

Brief Input Period

An interview panel that would include two parents was scheduled to convene Monday, July 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the meeting one week earlier, some parents expressed disappointment at the quick deadline, which they feared might prohibit parents from participating, particularly given the full day commitment.

In addition to volunteering to serve on an interview panel, parents, staff and community members were told they could share input by completing an online school leadership, skills and characteristics questionnaire. Parents we spoke with about the survey expressed confusion about when the survey would close, some believing it would be open for seven days following the special meeting on Monday but finding it closed after Friday, July 17. The results, which have already been shared, show it recorded only one parent participant.

One of the parents we spoke with, who asked we withhold their name because they are a PGCPS employee, said they had tried to access information on exactly who was serving on the hiring committee, but only received information about its general composition without names. They had hoped to reach out to the decision makers and offer their thoughts, they told the News Review, but "the only real option was the survey," they concluded. They said they were unaware of the survey prior to the Monday meeting but were able to complete it before it closed.

Praise for Clement

As parents responded to the news of their principal's departure, every one had praise for Clement and what he has done for the school.

The school was very lucky to have him as principal for five years, said parent Eric McKenzie, who is also the outgoing PTSA treasurer. "He was an enthusiastic partner with the community, showing up at every PTSA meeting to deliver his "Clement's Corner" updates and to take questions from our families. He welcomed family members into the school with open houses so that they could see their children's classes in action, and he supported school celebrations of African-American history, Hispanic heritage and international students. He was tireless in his drive to improve the school's performance, and he updated families each year on the school's state report cards. He had excellent people skills, and he was an extraordinarily responsive communicator, known for returning phone calls and emails in an hour or less," McKenzie told the News Review. "I'm sure that he'll be welcomed in his next position and that he'll be a terrific asset there." McKenzie said he hopes GMS' next principal will have "a similar ability to listen to the community, respond to their questions and keep them informed of school resources and opportunities." McKenzie also wants the next principal to focus on rigorous instruction, improving student attendance and reducing downtime in classes, as well as creating "a caring work environment where staff are supported and uplifted."

Another parent, whose name we are withholding at their request because they, too, are a PGCPS employee, feared Clement's departure would be destabilizing for GMS. "I think many teachers are there because of Mr. Clement — he is well loved. And GMS definitely has a lot of needs," they told the News Review. "I understand that a school's leadership is made up of a team, not one single person. And yet having a strong leader as principal makes a huge impact on the team's morale and effectiveness. It is a loss for GMS staff, students and families, especially with such a short timeframe to make the transition," they said.

GMS Parent Lauren Rankel praised Clement's communication and leadership. "Mr. Clement has been a devoted, enthusiastic leader of the GMS community. His promotion is so well deserved, and I'm thrilled he'll be supporting and mentoring other principals in the county," said Rankel. About the future, she said, "I am hopeful the search committee and the PGCPS leadership will select a new principal for us who will continue to communicate effectively with parents, motivate and encourage the GMS faculty and staff and will work as hard to know and champion the GMS students as Mr. Clement has during his tenure."

"Principal Clement was a leader's leader," another parent, Brooke Kenny, told the News Review. "He was a tireless advocate for the students, staff and families of Greenbelt Middle School. He brought a breadth of skills and a depth of motivation to serve that will be difficult to replace."

BARGAINING continued from page 1

the Public Works employees who petitioned council in September — made a comment in support of the law. "We are so happy to have the support to form a union, and that you have given us a process with which to do so," he said. "As a resident, as an employee, this is a wonderful thing to see."

Resident Bill Orleans expressed dissent, criticizing the law for enshrining collective bargaining rights for only some of the city employees. "The organization chosen by ... employees when they're certified in negotiation should have the opportunity to negotiate with management as to who should be in the bargaining unit."

Orleans' comment referred to employees who have managerial or confidential roles, who are excluded from collective bargaining by their role. To count as "confidential," an employee must either be involved in — or have knowledge of — the city's "development of labor relations strategy or collective bargaining positions," or they are someone who has influence over personnel decisions like hiring or firing. Employees also count as "confidential" if they either have consistent access to personnel information or sit in on certain meetings run by the city's manager or financial director.

Economic Development

Jessica Mailander introduced herself as the city's new director of economic development, stressing her experience in the field. She commented that the sense of place in Greenbelt and its development would go "hand in hand." She spoke of her recent attendance at the city's Business Expo on only her fourth day on the job.

Armory Demolition

Council has developed three plans for the Armory, purchased in 2024 for $1. All three options call for demolition of the building and council was requested to support the submission of grant proposals to analyze these options. Councilmembers agreed that the demolition would come as a surprise to many Greenbelters.

Resident Anguish

Longtime Greenbelt resident Frank Gervasi spoke of the petition he had begun, which already had 60 signatures. It opposes the demolition of what he referred to as a "beautiful building." He characterized council's three proposals as being "deficient" in any plan to use the site. He felt, "having been in construction his whole life," that the building was "real fixable" and wondered why council had acquired it merely to have it destroyed. Gervasi said that developers prefer to demolish and build anew because they make more money that way and recommended the preservation of the building and its use as a New Deal Museum.

Mayor Emmett Jordan agreed it was beautiful but disagreed on its fixability. The motion to apply for grants was passed, with Councilmember Danielle McKinney opposed.

Contracts Approved

City Manager Josué Salmerón noted that some contracts are multiyear contracts approved year to year. One is a new five-year contract for synchronized recording of police department interviews and body cameras/audio (brought up earlier in the meeting by residents).

A second vote approved year four of a contract for cameras in police cars (implemented prior to Salmerón's employment). The third item replaces police cars. Of 15 vehicles requested, three Ford Interceptor hybrids costing approximately $50,000 each will be purchased. All contracts were approved.

Other Activities

Salmerón explained that the return of county career firefighter personnel (a promise not yet fulfilled) would require firehouse updates, a city responsibility for which a list is in preparation.

The city is supporting access and traffic flow needs during Springhill Lake Elementary's two-year relocation to the Dora Kennedy building while the new school is built. Demolition of the decommissioned building has begun.

Jordan congratulated Salmerón and city employees on a successful July 4 celebration despite the high temperatures and threat of torrential rain.

Purchasing Limits

For purchases exceeding $10,000 in a year, the city must get contractor bids and sometimes, while no one purchase from a vendor is this high, multiple small purchases eventually exceed the threshold. Salmerón sought permission to negotiate such small purchases even if the addition takes the total over $10,000 and, in response to Jordan, noted they use local vendors when possible, but not, for example, for Microsoft products sourced directly.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Meeting Ends Per Rules

Ninety minutes into the meeting, Councilmember Kristen Weaver proposed a 30-minute extension to 10 p.m. per new meeting rules, but Pompi objected, saying she had a hard stop that had been communicated to council and noting that only one remaining item was time sensitive.

Weaver concurred and withdrew the motion, instead reordering the agenda.

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PUBLIC POLICY VOLUNTEERS
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
LEGACY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

The University of Maryland's Legacy Leadership Institute on Public Policy, in partnership with the State of Maryland, is looking for volunteers age 50+ to serve as volunteer legislative leaders during the 2026-2027 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly.

The twelve-week classroom training (two days per week) begins on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, and ends on Wednesday, December 2, 2026.

Classes will be held at the University of Maryland Extension, 8930 Stanford Blvd, Suite 25, Columbia, Md., 21045. The volunteer assignment will be in the legislative offices of members of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis.

Participants will serve a minimum of two (2) days per week starting Wednesday, January 13, 2027, and ending Monday, April 12, 2027.

For more information or for an application, contact Wesley Queen at wqueen@umd.edu.

EMPOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS
BECOME A MENTOR AT GREENBELT MIDDLE

HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT
DC METRO

Work with a small group of 6th-8th grade scholars as they explore high school, college, and career options. Mentoring curriculum includes writing, reading, and critical thinking activities rooted in social justice, social-emotional learning and high school readiness.

- Help scholars research and pursue personal goals
- Develop your collaboration, presentation and professional skillset
- Connect with talented youth in your community
- Build lasting relationships

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QUESTIONS?
AGUILLEN@HIGHERACHIVEMENT.ORG
HIGHERACHIEVEMENT.ORG/MENTOR

APPLY TODAY!

Join us 1x a week; Wednesdays 5:30p-6:30p

St. Jerome Institute Gets Help In St. Hugh's School Rezoning

by Cathie Meetre

In the Greenbelt City Council meeting of July 13, a request for support came from St. Hugh's of Grenoble, the Catholic church on Crescent Road.

St. Hugh's School was a private Catholic school once housed in the now mostly empty and deteriorating former school building adjacent to the church. Opened on November 1, 1949, the school was closed in 2009 after 60 years. Many now-adult city residents spent their first through eighth grade years there.

St. Jerome Institute, a Catholic secondary school now in Washington, D.C., wishes to move its operation into the building; it currently has 70 students and anticipates a maximum of 130. The nearly 17-year pause in usage as a school, however, makes the site revert to its original rural residential zoning which doesn't permit schools — and Prince George's County is the zoning authority.

PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

A view of the Braden Field side of the former St. Hugh's School shows the effects of minimal maintenance since it closed as a school.

PHOTO BY JUSTIN KLEM

This photo (from the News Review archive) is on the front page of the November 10, 1949, Greenbelt Cooperator (the News Review's earlier name). It shows Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle at the blessing and dedication ceremonies for the new St. Hugh's school and parish hall.

Support From Council

Earlier possibilities of such a move have been supported by council as a revitalization of the property, and now an opportunity to assist has presented itself. Prince George's County and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission authorities are in the process of reviewing a county bill (CB69), sponsored by county councilmember Timothy J. Adams, that changes the zoning requirement itself — rather than a special exception from the current zoning rules. St. Hugh's asked the city to submit a letter to support the application.

Thinking Outside the Box

The conventional approach is a special exception, which would take six to eight months "at a cost in the six-digits" according to land use and zoning attorney Matthew C. Tedesco, representing St. Jerome Institute. This more radical county bill approach exploits the fact that there are few sites (if any) in the county that would fit the narrow criteria of having previously been a private school, being now zoned rural residential and anticipating acquiring another private school occupant. Because the school's situation is likely unique, a change to the zoning laws themselves, unlikely as it seems, is better, cheaper and faster.

The Process to Date

Jaime Fearer, the city's acting director of Planning and Community Development, summarized the situation.

She explained that the Prince George's County Planning Board originally opposed a redesignation of the zoning because it affects all rural residential zones in the county and referred to schools in general. In a meeting, of which the city only had notice the day before and was not therefore registered to speak, Tedesco, on behalf of St. Jerome's, suggested an amendment that would limit the effect of the bill to private schools in locations that were previously private schools.

With this narrowing of the criteria, the board voted to accept — though the current draft of CB69 does not yet consistently reflect that. Tedesco (present by phone at the meeting) said it was typical that the wording would not actually be changed until it was next presented, likely July 23, though it is not yet on the agenda for that board meeting.

Fearer urged council to act quickly, even though the county is still not quite ready. St. Jerome Institute needs to get a ruling so it can prepare for the transfer in time to open as planned, and the city and St. Hugh's would both benefit from its tenancy.

Tedesco noted that successful passing of the bill would probably occur in the September timeframe, several months earlier than a special exception.

Letter Versus MOU

Tedesco suggested that perhaps a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covering elements cited by the county, such as parking, traffic, pedestrian safety, etc., would be the most effective intervention, though Councilmember Kristen Weaver was concerned that this might have wider repercussions for relationships between municipalities and county planning organizations.

Council passed a motion to provide a communication to the county leaving its format open for further consideration.

Strengthened Resolve

A representative from St. Jerome Institute noted that they had been fighting already for two years to accomplish relocating their school to Prince George's County and Greenbelt because most of their students come from the county and they feel another school alternative here is important. He characterized a move to Montgomery County as much easier and less expensive to accomplish but stated that the school's commitment is only strengthened as they work through what continues to be a difficult process.

City Notes

During the heat and air quality advisories, Public Information designed and disseminated information about staying safe. The Aquatic & Fitness Center instituted hydration breaks and responded to a heat-related health emergency.

Code Enforcement inspected Glen Oaks, Lakeside North and Jane Apartments, three commercial suites, three complaints and 17 rentals.

Animal Shelter residents are four cats, eight kittens and a dog, after one dog adoption.

Public Works assembled and removed risers at the Community Center and Ballfields/Parks modified cabinets at the Cinema to accommodate a new popcorn machine. Building Maintenance installed a new water heater in the Municipal Building and painted and carpeted three offices in the Police Department.

Recreation and Community Center staff continued session three of summer camps. Therapeutic Recreation provided camp inclusion support and took seniors to the Smithsonian Museums.

At Green Ridge House, CARES distributed 25 senior nutrition vouchers for use at the Farmers Market and offered a Community Solar Program workshop.

Summer Fun Runs At Buddy Attick

The Prince George's Running Club (PGRC) is partnering with the Greenbelt Recreation Department to host the free Buddy Attick Summer Fun Run series. Races take place every Thursday at 7 p.m. (registration 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.) to August 13.

Runners and walkers have the choice of either 1.75 miles (1 lap of the lake) or 3 miles (2 laps). Meet at the Youth Center parking lot. Volunteers are also needed.

Find out more and register at runsignup.com/Race/MD/Greenbelt/SummerSeries2016.

Nonprofit? Get your message here for $16.20.
www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

2026 Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen Nomination Form

Submit your nomination by **August 1** to
Tom Jones
Outstanding Citizen Committee
1 Woodland Way Unit C, Greenbelt MD 20770
or **OutstandingCitizenGB@gmail.com**

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Attach a statement describing why this nominee deserves recognition as Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen.

You can include a list of organizations or activities in which the nominee has participated, including length of time, specific accomplishments, their impact upon Greenbelt or people within the City, and personal qualities that make the nominee special. Note this award is for *unpaid* volunteer work only.

Others' testimonials or supporting material, are useful but not required.

You may be contacted for additional information. If you prefer, send this form now and complete the statement later. The form and any additional information must be received no later than the **August 1 deadline**.

Nominated by:

Name(s) Signature(s) Telephone

_____

We need your input—thank you!

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Letters cont'd from p.2

section. Through donating books and media for collection and sorting, submitting cash donations for books and other media in the blue donation box near the circulation desk or by becoming a Friends volunteer, it all helps us to support Library programs and outreach by raising funds that extend and stretch Library budgets. Your contributions are never taken for granted as they really do help our Library to continue to support the community in a variety of ways. For more information contact friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com.

Joe Robbins

Three Cheers for Camps

While there are many things to love about living in Greenbelt, one of the summer delights for people with little ones (and not so little!) is the city-run camps. Last year my grandson got to experience the thrill of performing through the Creative Kids Camp. This year he got to play hard with the Pine Tree crew.

What stands out to me the most is the commitment and dedication of the counselor staff. They were clearly attentive to all the kids (not an easy task) and made drop-offs and pick-ups effortless for the kids and their guardians.

A big thank you to all involved in making these programs work for all.

Aileen Kroll

Done with New Deal Café

I'm beyond done with the New Deal Café with their recent decision to not renew Kenny Hilliard's contract. We finally had a vendor who not only had amazing food but also updated the space attractively. I chose to eat there many times since Kenny took over — something that never happened before in the almost 10 years I've lived here.

If the NDC Board wants to pretend that it's still 1995 and that their broke-down, watered-down community room is somehow not responsible for all of their financial missteps, then they will continue to lose paying customers.

The NDC Audit Committee March memo, as noted in the July 17, 2026 News Review article, has it right that ending their partnership with Hilliard will see the end of the NDC as we know it. Another case of outdated leadership refusing to recognize reality and destroying what they claim to love.

Erin Bilyeu

Reparations Illegal?

The Greenbelt Reparations Committee continues on its merry way to recommend some sort of preordained payment scheme to the city's minority residents. However, as reported in the Washington Times, the U.S. Department of Justice has stated that "providing money to residents solely on the basis of race violates the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and the Fair Housing Act." Further, the DOJ states that "There are sound ways for a city to remedy past discrimination or direct resources to its most vulnerable citizens and neighborhoods. Simply handing out money based on race, however is not the answer. It is race discrimination, pure and simple, and it is illegal," said Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon, head of the DOJ Civil Rights Division.

Never mind the complexity of whom the committee deems eligible for reparations, how much these "victims" should be paid, and where the money will come from. It all comes down to a tax based on skin color payable by the residents of Greenbelt.

G. Kelly

BRIGGS continued from page 1

departure while vice chair and before the end of his term.

Delayed Announcements

Briggs sent a June newsletter to District 2 constituents on June 16, less than two weeks before his resignation, and did not mention his plan to resign. The News Review attempted to contact Briggs on July 2 but the email bounced. Residents with whom the News Review spoke, including those signed up for Briggs' emails and newsletters, had not received news of Briggs' resignation prior to July 20.

On July 20, in response to queries from the News Review about a public announcement and notification to constituents or media, PGCPS Director of the Board of Education Office Cindy Adlien directed us to the July 9 meeting as the official announcement and responded that notifications would be going out that day. Though Briggs' resignation was part of the chair's report at that meeting it was not on the agenda or within any board documents.

The announcement to constituents that Adlien shared with the News Review was marked "via email only" and dated June 30, though it was sent later the day of our communication, on July 20. Adlien stated, "There was a slight delay, as the Board was required to make a public announcement in accordance with parliamentary procedures." She did not respond to a follow-up question about which parliamentary procedures caused the delay in the notifications. Adlien also shared a media announcement dated July 20 and a memorandum to principals that was, like that to constituents, dated June 30. Micah McMillian, communications technician in the Board of Education office, confirmed that the notifications to constituents and principals dated June 30 were also sent on July 20. Those communications included an italicized message from Briggs within a larger letter or memo signed by Jackson and gave no indication of Briggs' reason for resignation.

Interim Appointment

The District 2 vacancy and appointment window was announced on the County Council website in an announcement dated June 30. Nominations for the seat would be accepted until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, said the announcement. Adlien and McMillian told the News Review that the application process for the District 2 board seat is being administered by Prince George's County Council. When we asked why the application process preceded and concluded before any announcement by PGCPS of the resignation and vacancy, or even the chair's report of it on July 9, we were directed to the communications team for the county council and county executive. We subsequently sent our questions to the county, including how they publicized the vacancy and application process and how many applications were received. We did not receive a response by press time.

New Vice Chair

Briggs' resignation left not only the District 2 seat vacant but also the position of vice chair. At the July 9 meeting Chair Jackson called for nominations. District 3 Board Member Pamela Boozer-Strother nominated District 8 Board Member Zakyia Goins-McCants as vice chair, Then, District 1 Board Member Tiffini Andorful nominated District 7 Board Member Phelton Moss and Student Board Member Sydney Mosley added his support of the nomination of Moss. District 5 Board Member Robin Brown then nominated Boozer-Struther, who said that she did not wish to run for the position. Goins-McCants then also declined the nomination, leaving only one candidate, Moss, who was announced as the new vice chair.

Impact on Election

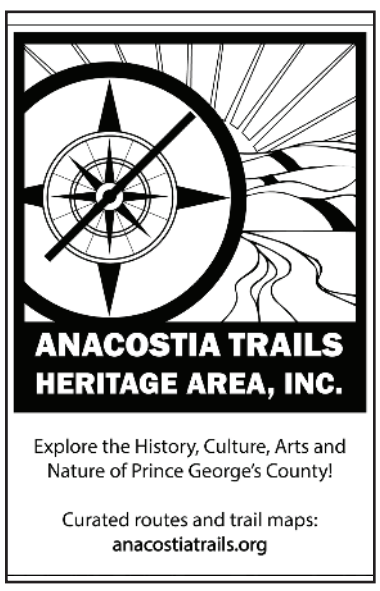
Several resignations from the Prince George's County Council took place in December and January when there was less than a year of the departing members' term to serve. The ability of the council to appoint the new member, just months ahead of an election, may have influenced the outcome of the election by bestowing an incumbent advantage on the member selected by council. In the case of District 4's representative, Tim Adams was appointed by the council on January 23 and subsequently won election and defeated challengers for the seat in June.

In the case of the District 2 school board seat, the race is already underway as the field was narrowed from three to two candidates in the June primary. In November, voters will be able to choose between two Greenbelt residents. Caroline Decaire-Goldin is a former PGCPS teacher, current Director of Teaching and Learning in the D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education and parent of children attending PGCPS schools. Terence Clegg is a risk management administrator at the Maryland Department of Human Services and parent of children attending PGCPS schools. Clegg has been endorsed by Governor Wes Moore and District 22 State Senator Alonzo Washington.

The News Review reached out to both Decaire-Goldin and Clegg to ask when and how they learned of the vacancy and if they applied to the interim position. Clegg responded, "In the process of seeking this position, I have tried to stay abreast of local and county news. I saw the vacancy announcement posted on the County's website and have submitted my materials for consideration." Decaire-Goldin did not respond by press time.

*Note: According to the county's notice of the vacancy and application window, Briggs' resignation was effective June 26 but according to PGCPS, it was effective June 30.

The author of this article has two children enrolled in District 2 PGCPS schools.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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred July 13-19, 2026. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported a sexual assault investigation and two domestic incidents, both resulting in arrest.

On July 17, a caller said that a man was not breathing and was blue in the face after consuming alcohol and suspected narcotics; he was taken to the hospital.

An elderly woman missing from Washington, D.C. was found on July 16.

Fight

On July 16 at 10:05 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was seen by witnesses harassing another man and waiting for him to leave the store; a fight ensued, and the primary instigator was injured.

False Police Report

On July 18 at 11:59 p.m. near 6005 Springhill Drive, officers responded to a reported breaking and entering in progress. The caller advised dispatch that three men armed with firearms were inside his residence attempting to rob him. Upon arrival, officers determined the reported home invasion did not occur, and that false information was knowingly provided to dispatch, resulting in an unnecessary police response. The caller was placed under arrest and transported to the Prince George's County Department of Corrections.

DUI Arrests

On July 14 at 10:16 p.m. near 6220 Breezewood Drive, a car was seen in the grass, halfway down the hill on Edmonston Terrace; the driver was arrested for DUI.

On July 15 at 3:18 p.m. near 5904 Cherrywood Terrace, after a two-vehicle crash, the driver of one car did not remain on scene, and the other driver showed officers into which apartment the first driver had fled. He was arrested for DUI.

On July 18 at 2:05 a.m. near 9175 Springhill Lane, officers observed an intoxicated driver driving across the grass. He struck two parked vehicles before his vehicle became disabled. He was arrested for DUI.

Fraud

On July 15 near 135 Westway, a man received a fraudulent check and was asked to deposit it into his bank account. The check writer told him to keep $700 and send the rest back. He was then contacted by his bank who told him the check was fraudulent.

On July 16 near 71 Ridge Road, a bank account was fraudulently opened in someone's name; near 7474 Greenway Center Drive, money from someone's bank account was used to make unauthorized purchases.

Theft and Shoplifting

On July 13 near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman was captured on CCTV footage and identified as stealing on five different dates. Officers are applying for charges for a theft scheme.

On July 14 at 2:33 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man concealed items in a backpack and was stopped as he tried to leave; he was banned.

On July 14 at 5:46 p.m. near 5829 Cherrywood Terrace, a delivered package was gone when the resident came home; at 6:13 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man concealed items in a bag and tried to leave; loss prevention staff tried to stop him, and the bag ripped. All merchandise was recovered.

On July 16 at 4:01 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman was apprehended for stealing; she was given a criminal citation and banned; near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifting incident was reported that took place on July 6.

On July 17 at 5:25 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, two men stole items.

On July 19 at 1:44 p.m. near 7573 Greenbelt Road, a man dressed in all black stole merchandise and fled; at 5:28 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man loaded a cart with merchandise and left without paying.

Trespassing Arrest

On July 19 at 12:44 a.m. near 9104 Springhill Lane, a man was seen on the balcony of a unit after he climbed there by ladder. Officers issued verbal commands for him to come down. He had previously been banned from the location, and was arrested for trespassing and taken to the Prince George's County Department of Corrections.

Vandalism

On July 17 near 6003 Springhill Drive, someone used a blunt object to damage the front door of an apartment.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicle Recovered

On July 15 near 9111 Edmonston Road, a Toyota Highlander and a Toyota RAV4 were found with broken windows; both were reported stolen out of Washington, D.C.

Theft from Auto

Wheels were stolen from four vehicles: on July 13 near 7810 Walker Drive from a 2026 Honda Civic, and near 6400 Ivy Lane from a 2025 Toyota Corolla; on July 14 near 9110 Edmonston Road from a 2026 Honda Pilot; and on July 16 near 9200 Edmonston Road from a Honda Civic.

On July 17 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, cash was stolen from inside a 2018 Honda Accord.

On July 19 near 6320 Golden Triangle Drive, a wallet containing personal identification and other documents was stolen from an unlocked vehicle.

Vandalism to Auto

On July 13 near 7710 Hanover Parkway, a 2020 Infiniti QX60 was vandalized.

Man Arrested for Armed Road Rage Incident

On Wednesday, July 15 around 3 p.m., an armed man who was driving a white Lexus SUV allegedly pulled up alongside another vehicle at the intersection of westbound Greenbelt Road and Edmonston Road and aimed a handgun at the victim. During the incident the armed man allegedly pointed his gun at the victim on two separate occasions.

The victim was able to photograph the armed man's vehicle, including its registration. Police later found the SUV parked nearby in the 6200 block of Springhill Drive in Franklin Park. The man was arrested on handgun charges when he left the apartment.

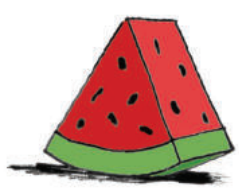
This information was drawn from a Greenbelt Police Department Facebook post.

More Shots Fired No Injuries or Arrests

Around 10 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14 gunfire broke out on the 9000 block of Breezewood Terrace. A group of individuals was seen running from the area after the sound of gunshots. There have been no arrests and no injuries reported so far.

This comes after a similar incident a week earlier, on July 8 around the 9300 block of Edmonston Road. Following gunfire at approximately 2 p.m. that afternoon, three male juveniles were seen running from the area. There were no reported injuries from that incident.

The Greenbelt Police Department requests that anyone with information call 301-474-7200. Information can be provided anonymously.



Driver Who Died in Custody and Involved Greenbelt Officer Named

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The driver who died following a crash off Southway on July 1 has been identified as 40-year-old Michael MacDougall, of Frederick. The Independent Investigations Division (IID) of the Maryland Office of the Attorney General (OAG), which is investigating this as a police-involved in-custody death, has named "the involved officer" as Greenbelt Police Officer Tyler Fahey, described as a four-year veteran of Greenbelt Police Department (GPD). A fundraising page for MacDougall says he was a new father to a 3-month-old named Jayson. The OAG reported an infant was in the vehicle at the time of the crash and was unharmed.

Assistant City Manager Tim George told the News Review he cannot share any information relating to the case until the OAG advises that the city is able to do so.

For our initial reporting of this incident, see page 13 of the July 9 issue.

GPD reported in a July 2 press release that their officers were providing assistance to U.S. Park Police (USPP) following the crash. When they arrived on the scene, USPP had already detained MacDougall, say both GPD and the OAG. The OAG announcement notes MacDougall was handcuffed by USPP and escorted by them from the wooded area to the roadway. "While in custody, the driver became unresponsive," said the OAG announcement. GPD's press release said their officers assisted with medical care as MacDougall appeared to be experiencing a medical emergency. The GPD release also stated that a USPP officer administered Narcan.

McDougall was transported to a local hospital by Prince George's County Fire/EMS, where he was later pronounced dead.

It is so far unclear why Fahey is the sole officer to be named when both GPD's press release and the OAG's announcement indicate more than one Greenbelt officer was on the scene to assist.

The IID has authority to investigate Maryland police officers involved in incidents that result in a death or injuries likely to result in a death. As a state-level investigations division it does not usually have authority to investigate federal officers, such as USPP, which would be the responsibility of federal agencies, such as the National Park Service Investigative Services Branch and the Department of Interior's own OAG.

The most recent announcement from the OAG notes that Fahey was wearing a body camera at the time and states that the dashboard camera in his cruiser recorded the incident. The IID generally releases body camera and dashboard footage within 20 days but the News Review's Maryland Public Information Act request to the OAG for public documents, including camera footage, has so far been denied due to the active investigation.

The News Review has been told that video of the incident may be released by late next week. Officer Fahey remains in full-duty status with GPD, Chief Richard Bowers told the News Review.

Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

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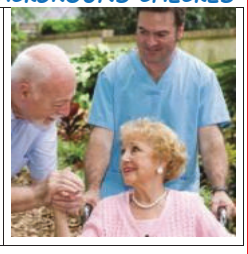

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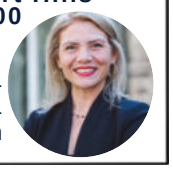

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BOXED: $11.50/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches ($17.25). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each $10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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Mayor Urges Golden Agers To Stay Active, Involved

by Mary Moien

Mayor Emmett Jordan met with Greenbelt Golden Age Club members on Wednesday, July 8 for an informal chat where he described his background and focused on current issues. The mayor, originally from Cincinnati, has been on the city council since 2009.

Jordan commented on the need for staying active as we age. Opportunities within the city include the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center as well as other gyms.

Encouraging ongoing involvement, he stated that the city has 17 advisory boards and many are looking for members. There are incentives to join a board: a free end-of-year dinner and a half-price membership at the Aquatic Center. He indicated that advisory board members may not have to be an expert in the field – sometimes just showing up to help is what is needed.

Jordan commented on activities under City Manager Josué Salmerón, who has been in office since 2023. The mayor thinks the city has been doing well in these last three years, providing help with rent and food and improving infrastructure including parks and recreation, which were benefited by federal funds.

When a question came up about the stop sign cameras, everyone had an opinion. Many Golden Agers had gotten a ticket or knew someone who had. The mayor said he had seen people almost hit at Ridge Road and Southway. Suze Marley suggested that instead of a ticket, the person should get community service as that would get people thinking more. Jordan encouraged her to send a memo to the city manager.

There was a comment that the ticketing letter looked like an ad and some may have thrown it in the trash. Stop sign cameras are currently at Southway and Ridge Road, Ridge Road and Gardenway and up near Greenbelt Elementary School. There are two cameras in Franklin Park. Greenbelt East has no stop sign cameras but does have several speed cameras.

Council Writing Class

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

On Saturday, July 1, five interested writers joined seasoned council reporter Cathie Meetre and Managing Editor Anna Bedford-Dillow at the newsroom for an introduction to the News Review and council writing class led by Meetre. Perhaps some new bylines on council stories will appear soon! From left are Hannah Frasure, Lynne Slater, Christopher Stark, Mary Sies and Rebecca Hartman.

Interested in writing for the News Review or other News Review volunteer options? Let us know by emailing editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com or going to our website at greenbeltnewsreview.com, clicking on Help Us and submitting the form.

PHOTO BY KEN LOO

A great blue heron on the wing at Buddy Attick Park

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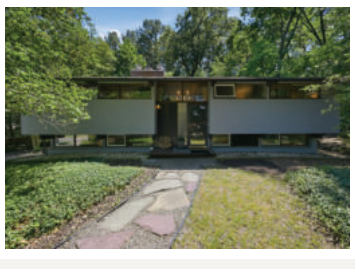

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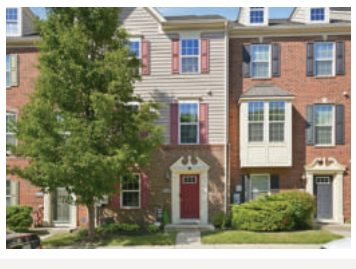

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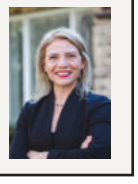

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Photo and Art Shows Offer New Attractions for Labor Day Festival

by Lisa Stand

PHOTO BY LISA STAND

2025 Labor Day Festival Art Show

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival announces several new features for the 2026 art and photo shows. For exhibitors, there is a new photo show category for professional photographers to display their work. Greenbelt art teachers can be part of the Festival this year too, with dedicated space in the art show. There is also a new category for digital art, responding to frequent requests from the art community.

Bringing exhibitors together on Labor Day, the art and photo award winners will be announced and honored in the Community Center gym on Monday, September 7 at 3:30 p.m. Organizers believe this change will elevate the awardees and allow for more shared appreciation on site.

For the second year, visitors to the shows will be treated to music by Greenbelt orchestra and band members and others. The addition of classical selections was so well received last year, organizers now can't imagine the shows without it.

As is traditional for Labor Day, artists are invited to submit a work that shows people working in the United States. These entries are eligible for the annual Cipriano Award that carries a cash prize.

The photo and art shows run Saturday, September 5 to Monday, September 7 in the Community Center gym. The shows offer Festival guests an artful place to pause, maybe cool off and enjoy the diversity and ingenuity of Greenbelt artists and photographers of all ages. As in past years, all will be invited to cast their ballot for Peoples' Choice Awards. Also on site, a video monitor will feature works from Greenbelt Access TV's youth programming and other video works.

For artists and photographers, online registration to enter the shows is now open on the Festival website, at greenbeltlaborday.com, under Events. Artwork and photos should be dropped off at the Community Center on Wednesday, September 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. Online registration is encouraged to streamline drop-off, avoid errors and save paper. For more information, check the Festival site at the link above.

Cardinal chicks

Cardinal chicks on the day they hatched, Tuesday, July 7

Cardinal chicks on day 9, Wednesday, July 15

Cardinal chicks on fledging day, Thursday, July 16

- Photos by Ginger Archibald

Council Considers Changes To Annual Budget Process

by Deanna Dawson

In the second half of the June 10 worksession, the Greenbelt City Council discussed the annual budget process. During the recently completed budget cycle, council adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget at its May 26 regular meeting. City Manager Josué Salmerón said the city must move its budget adoption date earlier to align with Prince George's County's May 15 deadline for certifying the real property-tax rate. This year the county agreed to a one-time accommodation allowing the city to submit its certification forms after the May 26 budget adoption.

Recommendations

For the FY 2027 budget cycle, Salmerón presented the proposed budget to council on March 23. Between April 8 and May 26, there were two public hearings on the proposed budget at regular council meetings and 10 worksessions focused on different components of the budget.

Salmerón recommended that, for the FY 2028 budget cycle and going forward, the budget process start in December with a pre-budget worksession, at which staff would present an early financial outlook identifying projected revenues, known expenditure increases, capital needs, reserve levels and the preliminary gap between recurring revenues and expenses. This would allow council to begin discussing potential tax, fee, service and staffing decisions well before the proposed budget is introduced. In order to adopt the budget and property-tax rate before the county's May 15 deadline, Salmerón recommended that the budget calendar be adjusted to include earlier and fewer worksessions, public hearings and decision points.

Discussion

Councilmember Kristen Weaver said that council will need to be more disciplined in the worksessions, focusing on the department, program or recognition group budget and not receiving or asking for updates on their accomplishments. She also suggested that some worksession topics be combined. Councilmember Amy Knesel said she liked the FY 2027 schedule in that it allowed time to formulate and submit questions to city staff before their council appearance. Councilmember Jenni Pompi agreed but suggested that council consider holding some budget worksessions on weekends to compress the schedule and to allow more residents to attend. Councilmember Danielle McKinney thought that council should consider budget issues before the proposed budget is presented, perhaps having them raised in the quarterly city manager's reports. She would like council to hear updates on department accomplishments throughout the year, which other councilmembers agreed with. Councilmember Frankie Fritz suggested a framework for analyzing the budget that includes a base budget review, discussions of service delivery and efficiency and a focus on outcome-based budgeting, considering how the investments being made meet the city's goals. Fritz also would like to see future consideration of participatory budgeting that would allow residents to become involved in the budget process.

Resident J Davis thought a pre-budget worksession would be worthwhile and suggested that it could even be moved into November. Salmerón countered that the city receives an expected property-tax revenue estimate from the state in December, which guides development of the proposed budget since property tax provides the vast majority of the city's revenue. Davis also suggested that budget worksessions could start in February, which drew some groans from councilmembers.

After further discussion with Salmerón about including budget information in the city manager reports, council shifted to Pompi's suggestion, made at an earlier meeting, that council establish a budget or finance task force to research policy or other issues relevant to the budget process. Although Knesel and McKinney thought creating council subgroups to research issues would be an efficient way to better inform council, Councilmember Silke Pope strongly objected to their establishment, saying council functions as a whole and councilmembers should be equally informed. Mayor Emmett Jordan said that creation of council committees should be carefully considered — should they be standing committees and would membership rotate? — and suggested it be the topic of a future worksession.

PHOTO BY NICK HALL NH

A tent caterpillar hides in its tent in April.